

Oak Hill Herndon CONNECTION

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The Town of Herndon's annual Tree Lighting remains a beloved annual event and 'distinctly Herndon.' The live tree planted on the grounds of the historic Old Town Hall located at the corner of Lynn and Elden Streets, shines brightly throughout the holiday season.

Tree Lighting Guides Santa to Town

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NEWS

"She Kills Monsters: Young Adventurers Edition" features several strong female roles. Here, adventurers Lilith (Grace Horner, left), Tilly (Claire Callaway, center), and Kaliope (Erin Maxwell, right) ready for action behind **Chuck, the Dungeon Master** (Davis Ingalls).



PHOTO BY ROBERT MAXWELL

'Killing It' on Stage for One More Weekend

Ominous ogres, bloodthirsty fairies, Dungeons & Dragons, and a whole bunch of really cool stage combat filled the Herndon High stage this past weekend as students presented "She Kills Monsters: Young Adventurers Edition" by Qui Nguyen. The contemporary dramatic comedy centers around Agnes Evans, a high schooler who is longing to learn more about her recently-deceased sister, Tilly. Soon after discovering Tilly's Dungeons and Dragons notebook, Agnes finds herself propelled into a fantastical adventure, and she learns more about Tilly than she ever could have imagined. Directed by Raphael Schklowsky, the show features humor, fun 90s references, amazing tech, and fight choreography by

Casey Kaleba, who recently served as the audition choreographer for Marvel Universe Live. Theatre fans have one more weekend left to join the adventure. Tickets: <https://herndonadrama.org/>

Performance Dates: Friday, Dec. 14, 7-9 p.m.; Saturday, Dec. 15, 7-9 p.m.; Sunday, Dec. 16, 2-4 p.m.

Performance Location: Herndon High School Auditorium, 700 Bennett Street, Herndon. Tickets & Information: \$9/Student and \$12/Adult in Advance Online at www.HerndonDrama.org; \$10/Student and \$15/Adult at Box Office.

Parental guidance recommended—Contains adult humor and language, violence, and mature themes.

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PHOTOS BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION

Santa mingles with the children and the crowd after the Holiday Tree Lighting & Sing-Along held Saturday, Dec. 1, 2018, produced by the Herndon Chamber of Commerce and the Town of Herndon. The event is part of "Hometown Holidays."

Tree Lighting Guides Santa to Town

Hometown holiday event celebrates distinctly Herndon.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

The Town of Herndon partnered with the Herndon Chamber of Commerce, part of the Dulles Chamber of Commerce, to produce the Holiday Tree Lighting & Sing-Along on Saturday, Dec. 1.

Part of the "Hometown Holidays" lineup of eleven events held mid-November through New Year's Eve, Saturday's happening featured music by Herndon High School Band directed by Kathleen Jacobs, Band Director Herndon High School, the annual tree lighting and a visit from Santa.

"We love being a part of the Herndon community," said Jacobs after the event. "The Tree Lighting gives us a chance to share our music with so many of the people who supported us throughout the year."

Former Mayor of Herndon, Michael O'Reilly introduced Vice Mayor Jennifer Baker who led the countdown for the tree lighting. Within seconds of the illumination, children and parents heard the wail of a fire engine siren as Santa, standing atop a Fairfax County Fire Engine made his way through the Historic Downtown District straight to the waiting boys and girls.

Climbing down the ladder, Santa wandered through the crowd and drizzle, taking time to listen to the children and talk with them.

Santa could be overheard saying, "I'll have to see about that," for nearly all the requests. He eventually walked over to Green Lizard Cycling where hot cocoa and treats awaited him and the crowd.

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM



The Manetto children of Herndon, Dominic, 18 months, Juliana, 7, Paul, 11, Patrick, 9, and Maryclare, 4, stand with Santa after sharing their secrets with him following the Holiday Tree Lighting & Sing-Along held Saturday, Dec. 1.



Members of the Herndon High School Band perform during Holiday Tree Lighting & Sing-Along presented by the Herndon Chamber of Commerce, a part of the Dulles Regional Chamber of Commerce and the Town of Herndon held Saturday, Dec. 1.



PHOTO COURTESY OF LOTTE

The Herndon Lotte Plaza Market held its official Ribbon Cutting, 15 scissors long, and welcomed the public to its Grand Opening on Friday, Dec. 7, 2018.

New Grocery Store Opens in Herndon

"A welcome far beyond what I expected," Alvin Lee, President Lotte Market.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

The Herndon Lotte Plaza Market held its Ribbon Cutting, white-gloved and 15 scissors long, on Friday, Dec. 7, 2018, welcoming shoppers to its Grand Opening. Located at 490 Elden Street in Herndon Centre, Lotte strives to be the premier source for Asian groceries in Virginia and Maryland according to its website.

The K-Mart Center now needs to be called the Lotte Market Center, said Mike O'Reilly, member of the Herndon Dulles Chamber of Commerce, part of the Dulles Chamber of Commerce. O'Reilly participated in the Friday, Dec. 7 ribbon cutting ceremony along with Herndon Town Councilmembers Sheila Olem and Richard Kaufman.

"At the grand opening of its grocery market this week, Lotte showcased its fresh fruits, vegetables and fish," said O'Reilly. According to Lotte, they offer an extensive selection of fresh fruits and vegetables, including organics and their seafood is

the "absolute best and freshest seafood available ... When it comes to seafood, freshness is paramount."

Herndon Town Councilmember Sheila Olem commented that Lotte not only has Halal meats for sale but also has a deli with ready-to-eat selections of cooked Halal meats and other items.

"Congratulations to A. J. Dwoskin & Associates (Real Estate & Development for Herndon Centre), The Town of Herndon's Economic Development Office, Dennis Holste, and the Herndon Chamber of Commerce for welcoming this great new market to our community," said O'Reilly.

Alvin Lee, President Lotte Market, shared how the Town of Herndon provided the most supportive cooperation that Lotte Market has ever received from any government entity, and that resulted in the smoothest build-out and opening the corporation has ever had.

"We love Herndon, not only for the diversity in population but also diversity in its mix of old town feel and new development projects," Lee said.



PHOTO COURTESY OF SHEILA OLEM

Mike O'Reilly, Dulles Chamber of Commerce, Alvin Lee, President Lotte Plaza Market, and Town of Herndon Councilmembers Sheila Olem and Richard Kaufmann enjoy the Grand Opening and Ribbon Cutting of the Herndon Lotte Plaza Market at 490 Elden Street.

OPINION

Holidays Speed By

Every year is Election Year in Virginia; sometimes every month ...

Our last live newspapers of 2018 will come out next Tuesday and Wednesday, Dec. 18 and Dec. 19. Editors are already working on hundreds of submissions for our Children's Connections, which will come out in the days between Christmas and New Year's. Our first regular newspapers will come out in the first week of January, 2019.

Don't miss our holiday calendars in these weeks, with so many local things to do.

Among things to do is to watch for a Special Election Day on Tuesday, Jan. 8, to fill the unexpired term of the 33rd District seat in the

Virginia State Senate, as Jennifer Wexton vacates that seat to head to U.S. Congress in Virginia's 10th District.

On Election Day polls are open from 6 a.m. until 7 p.m. Joe T. May (R) faces Jennifer B. Boysko (D). If Boysko should win, another Special Election will be scheduled to fill her seat in the Virginia House of Delegates. www.fairfaxcounty.gov/elections/upcoming

And later in 2019, every seat on the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, every seat on the School Board, every seat in the Virginia House of Delegates and Virginia Senate, and more are

up for election. We already know that there will be significant turnover, with many new candidates to get to know. Primaries will likely be in June.

The 2019 session of Virginia's General Assembly begins Wednesday, Jan. 9, 2019.

For families, we can point you back to holiday happenings; breathe and enjoy some hot chocolate with your children and neighbors.

Letters to the editor go to <http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/contact/letter/> or editors@connectionnewspapers.com

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Welcoming Amazon

To the Editor:

The following open letter was addressed to Amazon.

Welcome to Northern Virginia! As the timeframe for your decision on HQ2 drew closer, those of us who already call this region home began to think about how we'd welcome you to our community.

Community foundations have a more than 100-year history as community conveners and conversation brokers who work tirelessly to preserve, enhance and protect the quality of life for our neighbors. This role often places us directly in the middle of our community's most important decisions, most pressing issues, and most promising opportunities. Many in our community believe that your decision to locate HQ2 in Northern Virginia is the most impactful event to happen in each of these categories in a generation.

Your arrival will bring jobs, critical advancements in the quality of our public transportation, investments in technology education, and opportunities for small businesses that will serve you and the workers you attract — among many other things. Like you, we want our neighborhoods to be diverse and vibrant places to live and work. We want our economic development to be a rising tide that lifts all boats. Companies and community foundations have worked in tandem to address local issues for over a century. It is therefore our deepest hope that in partnership, we can reimagine solutions to workforce development, affordable housing and other social problems, perhaps driven by imaginative technology-dependent solutions not yet seen that we invent together.

'It's the Most Wonderful Time'

Holiday fun abounds around the area, including Carriage Rides at Reston Town Center's Market Street.

PHOTO COURTESY OF MYERS PUBLIC RELATIONS



Your arrival in Northern Virginia gives us all a chance to create a more regional, collaborative approach to local philanthropy that brings to bear the full capacity and weight of our nonprofit partners, our collective community knowledge, and our shared impulse to help build community through philanthropy. We look forward to working with you, problem solving with you, and advancing our community's best interests, together.

Heather Peeler
President & CEO, ACT for Alexandria

Jennifer Owens
President & CEO, Arlington Community Foundation

Amy Owen
President, Community Foundation for Loudoun & Northern Fauquier Counties

Eileen Ellsworth
President & CEO, Community Foundation for Northern Virginia

Bruce McNamer
President & CEO, Northern Virginia Greater Washington Community Foundation

Time is Running Out to Save the Farm

To the Editor:

With only days left, I am writing to urge you and your readers to help save The Claude Moore Colonial Farm at Turkey Run in McLean. The National Park Service intends to "terminate" (their word) the Farm on Dec. 21, 2018. For over forty years, this special place has been a very important part of my life and so many others. Its loss would be huge for the community at large.

While it began as a National Park, the Farm was turned over to the Friends of Claude Moore Colonial Farm in 1981 and has been a successful, private endeavor ever since. The Farm portrays the life of a lower-class, homesteading Virginia family during the late Colonial period. It offers a unique historical perspective and opportunities to engage in colonial living experiences.

As a Fairfax County Public

School teacher, for years I took my fourth grade classes to the Farm to live three days and two nights in the year 1771. It truly was "living history." This program continues to this day as schools from Virginia, Maryland and D.C. bring students to participate in colonial encampments. As a mom, I was one of many who took their children there to learn about colonial life at Market Fairs and through many other farm events.

To date, more than 12,480 people have signed the Save the Farm petition. Information on how to help can be found on the Farm's website— <http://1771.org/savethefarm> While legislation has moved to the floor in the House of Representatives, no legislation has even been introduced in the Senate by the Virginia Senators. Legislation must pass the Senate by Dec. 14. Time is running out.

The historical learning experiences offered by the Farm are so worth saving.

May Ohman
Arlington

Oak Hill & Herndon
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An independent, locally owned weekly newspaper delivered to homes and businesses.

Published by
Local Media Connection LLC

1606 King Street
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

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PHOTO BY HOME ON CAMERON

Todd Martz of Home on Cameron in Old Town Alexandria suggests adding a decorative mirrors for a quick bathroom update.



PHOTO COURTESY OF ANNE WALKER

Potomac designer Anne Walker used Thibaut wallpaper to make the room a “fabulous, joyful place to visit,” she said.

Preparing for Holiday Guests

Sprucing-up a bathroom without a renovation.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL

Amid the tree-trimming, wreath hanging and stocking stuffing in an effort to deck the halls in anticipation of holiday guests, there’s one space that can be forgotten: the humble bathroom. While not as festive as hanging garland, a few simple tweaks can transform a bathroom from glum to guest ready.

“Hands-down, the easiest way to spruce up a bathroom with little or no expense is to de-clutter,” said Anne M. Walker of Anne Walker Design. “You’ll be amazed how beautiful your bathroom looks if you clear away all of the items sitting on the countertop and around the room.”

To help with that effort, Walker suggests investing organizational items such as Lucite or bamboo trays and drawer inserts so that personal items can be kept out of sight.

For those with a budget and time to allow for it, Walker suggests a fresh coat of paint or new wallpaper. “That can make a huge visual impact in a bathroom,” she said. “Since the space is so small, and it’s a room where you don’t spend long periods of time, you can have fun with interesting colors and patterns.”

Also think about painting just one wall as an accent or the ceiling,” said Todd Martz of Home on Cameron in Alexandria. “[Add a new] mirror, such as a decorative or colorfully framed mirror or one that runs from floor to ceiling, for a fresh look.”

He also suggests updating a bathroom’s lighting to make the space feel bright and airy.

Another practical tip that Walker offers is a good, old-fashioned scrub-down. “Clean like you’ve never cleaned before, she said. “Use a surface cleaner with bleach, like Krud Kutter, which is my personal favorite, a strong brush, and your elbow grease to remove dust, grime and dirt from tile grout, caulk, and corners of the room.”

ners of the room.”

Among the more mundane tasks is to visually inspect the bathroom’s grout to check for cracks and stubborn, unsightly mold. Re-grouting might be necessary, says Chuck Khiel, vice president of Fred Home Improvement. “When making a repair, it is very important to remove all of the cracked grout in the joint so that the full edge of the tile is exposed,” he said. “The new grout can then bond to the full thickness of the tile edge. Simply smearing a thin layer of new grout over old grout will not work.”

Once the room is sparkling clean and totally decluttered, Walker suggests adding display on a countertop or in a shower niche. “A vase full of bamboo, pretty soaps in a rattan basket or a Lucite tray filled with beautiful guest towels are just a few suggestions for fresh objects that will lend an air of tranquility to your bathroom.”

For guests who might cringe at the thought of shared guests towels, Martz suggests adding a tray of disposable hand towels. He also encourages engaging one’s sense of smell by, “adding some scented candles like those by Rigaud’s Cypres and Cythere.”

Another simple fix is to buy fresh new bath linens, says Walker. “No matter how hard you try, towels and shower curtains get dingy over time,” she said. “There are so many places to buy lovely linens, and many of them are very low cost.”

With the right accessories, even the most modest spaces can be made to feel like a spa, suggests Walker, recalling a bathroom in which she added added a Turkish towel, striped shower curtain which became transformative. “Even though the bathroom, itself, is modest, the beautiful shower curtain makes it feel like a resort,” she said. “By adding just a couple of colorful accessories on the countertop, it pulls the whole room together.

Installing new fixtures such as a shower head can quickly transform a bathroom from outdated to updated. “There are many types of shower heads on the market these days,” said “Some offer a variety of water streams and different features, [and] most manufacturers make it so that changing a shower head is fairly simply.”

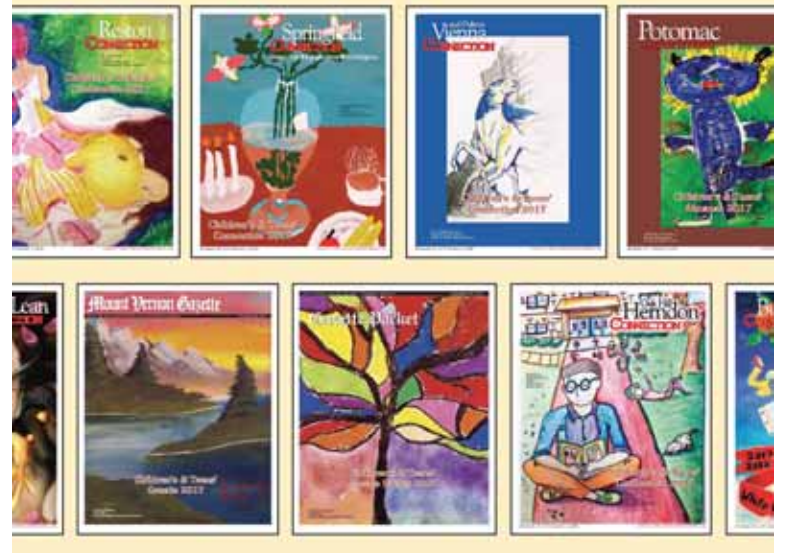
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An expert is someone who knows some of the worst mistakes that can be made in his subject and how to avoid them.
-Werner Heisenberg

HOLIDAY ENTERTAINMENT

Submit entertainment announcements at www.connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/. The deadline is noon on Friday. Photos/artwork encouraged.

FRIDAY/DEC. 14

Holiday Performance – Oak Hill ES Chorus. 7 p.m. at Fountain Square, Reston Town Center. Enjoy live music on the plaza presented by the Oak Hill Elementary School Chorus. Visit restontowncenter.com/events.

FRIDAY-SUNDAY/DEC. 14-16

“She Kills Monsters: Young Adventurers Edition.” Friday-Saturday, 7-9 p.m.; Sunday, 2-4 p.m. in the Herndon High School Auditorium, 700 Bennett St., Herndon. Herndon High presents “She Kills Monsters: Young Adventurers Edition,” a contemporary dramatic comedy centered around Agnes Evans, a high schooler who is longing to learn more about her recently-deceased sister, Tilly. Soon after discovering Tilly’s Dungeons and Dragons notebook, Agnes finds herself propelled into a fantastical adventure complete with ominous ogres and bloodthirsty fairies, and she learns more about Tilly than she ever could have imagined. Parental guidance recommended—Contains adult humor and language, violence, and mature themes. \$9, student and \$12, adult in advance at www.HerndonDrama.org or \$10, student and \$15, adult at the box office.

SATURDAY/DEC. 15

Holiday Open House. 11 a.m. at Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Join library staff to celebrate the holiday season with light refreshment, music, entertainment and fun. Call 703-689-2700 or visit librarycalendar.fairfaxcounty.gov.

Holiday Performance – Gottaswing. 12-12:30 p.m. at Fountain Square, Reston Town Center. Dancers will jitterbug, jive and swing with a holiday twist. Visit restontowncenter.com.

RTC Winterfest. 12 - 5 p.m. at Fountain Square, Reston Town Center. Carousel rides, plus treats, kids’ activities, and more in front of the Ice Skating Pavilion. Free. Visit restontowncenter.com.

Holiday Performances at The Promenade. 12:30 and 1:30 p.m. at Reston Town Center. The Reston Chorale. Enjoy professional local musicians and singers presented by Reston Community Center. Free. Visit restontowncenter.com.

Holiday Performances at The Promenade. 3 and 4 p.m. at Reston Town Center. The Northern Virginia Ukulele Ensemble. Enjoy professional local musicians and singers presented by Reston Community Center. Free. Visit restontowncenter.com.

Illuminated Cards and Glowing Gifts. 3:30 p.m. at Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Create a parallel circuit that illuminates LEDs on a seasonal card or a glowing gift of your own creation. All projects go home. Cosponsored by the FRRL. Age 12-18. Register at 703-689-2700 or librarycalendar.fairfaxcounty.gov beginning Dec. 1.

Holiday Play/Sing Along. 4-5:30 p.m. at Reston Community Center Hunters Woods, 2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston. Join the Reston Community Orchestra for a family-friendly sing-along/play-along of holiday favorites. The audience is invited to bring bells, kazoo’s or other favorite instruments, as well as their voices. Cookie reception following the concert. Free, donations are



Holiday Rides

Celebrate the season with horse-drawn carriage rides or mini-train rides at Reston Town Center. Horse-drawn carriage rides take place Saturday, Dec. 15 and 22, 4-9 p.m., departing on Market Street near Clyde’s. \$5 per person, children under 5 ride free. All proceeds are donated to local charities. Mini-train rides take place Sunday, Dec. 16, noon-4 p.m., departing on Market Street near Clyde’s. All donations will go to local charities. Visit restontowncenter.com/holidays.

appreciated. Call 571-271-9189 or visit restoncommunityorchestra.org.

Opening Reception at GRACE – Mary B. Howard Invitational: STRETCH. 5-7 p.m. at Greater Reston Arts Center, 12001 Market St., #103, Reston. Five local artists were selected to create a new work responding to the prompt, “If you could do anything, what would that be?” Free, on exhibit through Feb. 9, 2019. Call 703-471-9242 or visit restonarts.org. **A Christmas Carol: A Staged Reading Benefit.** 8 p.m. at NextStop Theatre, 269 Sunset Park Drive, Herndon. Fairfax County Public School teachers perform a one-night-only, special staged reading of Charles Dickens’ beloved holiday tale. All proceeds benefit the NextStop Education programs and FCPS Theatre Teachers Association. Tickets: \$25; group (8+) discounts available. Call 866-811-4111 or visit nextstoptheatre.org.

SUNDAY/DEC. 16

Holiday Performance at The Promenade. 1-3 p.m. at Reston Town Center. Classic Strings, violin and bass duo, presented by Reston Community Center. Visit restontowncenter.com. **Treble Clefs Holiday Sing-along.** 7-9 p.m. at ArtSpace Herndon, 750 Center St., Herndon. A night of holiday classics. Recommended donation of \$20. Call 703-956-6590 or visit www.artspaceherndon.org.

MONDAY/DEC. 17

Nose to Toes Yoga. 10:30 a.m. at Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Explore yoga poses and movement while enjoying books and songs with a children’s yoga instructor. Age 3-5 with adult. Call 703-689-2700 or visit librarycalendar.fairfaxcounty.gov

TUESDAY/DEC. 18

Baby Play and Explore. 11 a.m. at Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. An hour of unstructured play and social time for babies. Age birth-18 months with adult. No registration required. Call 703-689-2700 or visit librarycalendar.fairfaxcounty.gov.

WEDNESDAY/DEC. 19

Meet Me at the Movies – Senior Movie Day. 10 a.m. (doors open 9:15 a.m.) at Bow Tie Cinemas, Reston. Reston Association presents the feature film “Mamma Mia! Here We Go Again.” Refreshments and door prizes provided prior to movie.

Free to 55+. Call 703-435-6577 or visit reston.org.

Reading Nook by Valerianne.

10:30-11:30 a.m. at ArtSpace Herndon, 750 Center St., Herndon. Arts Herndon celebrates the Literary Arts with Snowmen All Year by Caralyn Buehner with a Snowman project. The Reading Nook Events reading activities and crafts are appropriate for children up to 5 years old. \$10 per family. Call 703-956-6590 or visit www.artspaceherndon.org.

THURSDAY/DEC. 20

Girl Power! Book Club. 7 p.m. at at Scrawl Books, 11911 Freedom Drive, Reston. Middle grade readers (ages 10-13) gather to discuss and review favorite books that are written by or about women and girls. Authors, special events, and activities are part of every meeting, and new members are always welcome. Visit www.scrawlbooks.com or call 703-966-2111 for the book.

SATURDAY/DEC. 22

Fantastic Films: You’ve Got Mail. 2 p.m. at Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Warm up with hot cocoa and a literary movie: You’ve Got Mail, set in wintertime NYC and starring Meg Ryan and Tom Hanks (1998, PG). Adults, teens. Call 703-689-2700 or visit librarycalendar.fairfaxcounty.gov.

WEDNESDAY/DEC. 26

INOVA Blood Drive. 1-6 p.m. beside the Pavilion at Reston Town Center. Schedule Bloodmobile appointments at 1-866-256-6372 or inova.org/donateblood. On-site registration **Holiday Concert.** 6-7:30 at The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, 2700 F St. NW, Washington, D.C. Featuring local Encore Chorale groups from Alexandria, Arlington, Fairfax, and Reston. Free, the public is invited and no tickets are required. Visit www.encorecreativity.org.

THURSDAY/DEC. 27

Bobby Cadabra Magic Show. 11-11:45 a.m. at Frying Pan Farm Park, Visitor Center auditorium, 2739 West Ox Road, Herndon. Put some magic in the holiday season with the “Bobby Cadabra Magic Show,” a magic show full of laughs, audience participation and live animals that will entertain audience members age 2-adult. Reserve a spot; \$5 per person. Call 703-437-9101 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/frying-pan-park.

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BULLETIN

Submit civic/community announcements at ConnectionNewspapers.com/Calendar. Photos and artwork welcome. Deadline is Thursday at noon, at least two weeks before event.

SOBER-RIDE FOR THE HOLIDAYS

Free Sober Rides. 8 p.m.-4 a.m. daily, Dec. 14-Jan. 1. Area residents, 21 and older, may download Lyft to their phones, then enter a code in the app's "Promo" section to receive a no cost (up to \$15) safe ride home (limited quantities available). WRAP's Holiday SoberRide promo code will be posted at www.SoberRide.com.

HOLIDAY DONATIONS

Toys for Tots Drop Off. Through Dec. 12 at National Realty, 11890 Sunrise Valley Drive, Reston. Stop by any weekday from 9-4 and drop a new, unwrapped toy in the donation box in the lobby. All toys will be distributed to needy children within Loudoun County and to Herndon & Reston children via the non-profit Herndon-Reston FISH, Inc. Toys should be for the ages of newborn to 16. Call 571-205-8874 for more.

Toy Drive. Through Friday, Dec. 14 at local Weichert, Realtors offices. Members of the community are invited to drop off new, unwrapped toys at the company's sales offices. The toys will be delivered throughout the holidays in conjunction with local charities that assist financially and physically disadvantaged children. To find a local office, go to www.weichert.com/offices/.

THROUGH DECEMBER

White House Ornaments. Assistance League of Northern Virginia has begun its annual fundraising sale of White House Ornaments. The 2018 ornament honors Harry S. Truman, highlighting changes made to the White House during his administration. One side features the Truman Balcony and the reverse features the Blue Room. Assistance League is an all volunteer, non-profit organization. Proceeds benefit our community-based programs that support local low income children. \$22 (+ shipping if mail delivery required). Email burgessgl@verizon.net or visit www.alnv.org.

DONATION REQUEST

Support Reston Historic Trust & Museum.

The Reston Historic Trust & Museum has launched a GoFundMe campaign with the goal to raise \$15,000 to go towards the repair, cleaning, and reinstallation of icons on the façade of the former Lakeside Pharmacy, an original Lake Anne Plaza store, in a new permanent exhibit. The new exhibit will be unveiled during Reston's annual Founder's Day event, April 6th, 2019. Read more about their history and donate at www.gofundme.com/preserve-lakeside-pharmacy-icons to assist in their preservation. Thank you for your help!

WEBINAR

Online Salary Negotiation Workshop. AAUW (American Association of University Women) Work Smart is free online for anyone looking to learn how to negotiate a salary increase or promotion. Why is negotiation so important? AAUW's research on the gender pay gap shows that, one year out of college, women are already paid significantly less than men. Visit salary.aauw.org.

THURSDAY/DEC. 13

Weekend Food for Kids. 10-11:30 a.m. at Dominion Energy, 3072 Centreville Road, Herndon. Assistance League of Northern Virginia, a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit organization, invites community members to help pack food for its Weekend Food for Kids program. This critical program provides nonperishable food over the weekend to children who receive free or reduced-price meals. Arrive at 9:30 to help with setup. Free. Email philanthropy@alnv.org or visit www.alnv.org.

Learn about Citizenship. 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Thomas Jefferson Library, 7415 Arlington Blvd., Falls Church. Learn about the process of becoming a U.S. citizen at this free information session. After the presentation a USCIS representative will answer your questions. U.S. Sen. Mark R. Warner will make opening remarks. Free. Email libtj@fairfaxcounty.gov, call 703-573-1060 or visit librarycalendar.fairfaxcounty.gov/event/4476399 for more.

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Still Scared to ...



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

As a follow up to last week's column: "Scared to ...," let me provide a bit more context for the fear and anxiety I wrote about; as well as some history for you readers to appreciate the emotional challenges some of us cancer patients experience.

It all began with the initial Team Lourie meeting on Feb. 27, 2009 when we met my oncologist for the first time.

After exchanging pleasantries, such as they could be, I was examined by my oncologist in an adjacent room. After he completed his exam, we all re-assembled in his office where he reviewed the results of my most recent medical history dating back to Jan. 1, 2010 when I first showed up at the Emergency Room complaining of shortness of breath.

Subsequently, there were two sets of X-Rays, one CT scan, one P.E.T. scan and then a surgical biopsy to confirm the previous findings. It was nearly eight weeks to the day that I learned my diagnosis: non-small cell lung cancer, stage IV. And so my oncologist began to talk. I'm semi-quoting, but clearly remembering the substance:

I can treat you, but I can't cure you. Your prognosis is 13 months to two years. The percentage of patients who live beyond two years is 2 percent. Could you be the one who lives beyond two years? Absolutely. This is extremely serious. You should begin chemotherapy as soon as possible. Next week if possible.

Then our questions began – after we gathered our composure that is. I mean, hearing these words directed at you is as surreal as it gets, and with limited knowledge on the subject and the circumstances, we had difficulty starting a conversation.

This is as much as I remember hearing that day. Could there have been more? I'm sure. Unfortunately, we were ill-prepared for the occasion.

Though there were three of us: my wife, Dina, my brother, Richard, and myself – collectively, what went in all of our ears went out in different directions.

What was said, what was heard, what was understood, what was remembered, was all a jumble. No one thought to take notes or bring in a recording device, two suggestions which have been subsequently made and that I now pass on to you.

My oncologist answered our questions about surgery, radiation, treatment, drugs, side effects, schedule, etc., all of which was difficult to absorb.

He then attempted to describe what my life would be like going forward, offering no guarantees of anything particularly hopeful, which now explains the reasons for these two columns: death and progression from dying/symptoms getting worse. He used a staircase as an example.

My health would steadily decline, as if walking down a flight of stairs. As my health deteriorated/symptoms manifested (down a couple of steps), he could stabilize me there by trying new treatment. But he could never bring my health back to its previous place. Then after a while the new treatment would become unsuccessful (down a few more steps), and again, he could stabilize me but he couldn't bring me back. And on and on until ... I think I can remember another visual he offered: playing with a yo-yo as I descended the stairs; down, down, down.

Amazingly, this has not happened to me despite a week's long hospitalization five-plus years ago.

HOWEVER, per my understanding of my condition (I wasn't diagnosed as "terminal" for nothing), I anticipate stepping down at some point. And any time – every time – I experience symptoms uncharacteristic of my semi-normal existence, I ALWAYS wonder if this is the beginning of my end.

And as much as I want to stay one step ahead, it's hard for me (practically impossible) to not think that when new symptoms occur, cancer is stepping up its attack.

Kenny Lourie is an Advertising Representative for The Potomac Almanac & The Connection Newspapers.



The Collar family of Herndon, dad Patrick, mom Ann and children Adrianna, 10, Tiffany, 3, Logan, 8, and Sophia, eight months visit with Santa at the 2nd Annual Santa, Stars, & S'mores at Runnymede Park in Herndon.



"Blow!" urges Cindy Roeder, Executive Director Herndon Parks & Recreation to her grandson, Perry, 5 1/2, during the 2nd Annual Santa, Stars, & S'mores held at Runnymede Park in Herndon.

PHOTOS BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION



PHOTO BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION

Jeremy Sontag of Oak Hill holds his son, Ethan 4 1/2, as his wife, Jennifer holds son, Owen, 1 1/2. Together they sit beside a tractor-driving Santa at Fairfax County's 'Christmas at the Farm' held at Frying Pan Farm Park in Herndon Dec. 2, 2018.

Santa, Stars, & S'mores

Low key, local holiday magic at Runnymede Park in Herndon.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

Herndon Parks and Recreation has an in for Santa. For the second time in a week, the sought after man in red stopped in the Town of Herndon. This time, on Friday, Dec. 7, 2018, from 6:00-7:30 p.m., Santa made his way deep in the cold dark woods, through the forests of Runnymede Park in Herndon for a low key and local celebration with friends and neighbors.

Families with little ones in tow, followed hundreds of real candlelit luminaries, down dark, shadowy paths coursing through the forested park. "This is our second Santa, Stars, & S'mores," said Jessica Flores as she and her husband, Les led daughter, Beatrice 2, down the paths. "She liked it last year, and we'll be making the s'mores again." Continuing, the Flores family spied the canopy of twinkling lights around the next bend, the bonfire and the jolly man in red.

"This event includes some long standing winter traditions like marshmallows roasting over a campfire, holiday caroling... (It) introduces many to the Town's largest park," said Cindy Roeder, Executive Director Herndon Parks & Recreation. "And of course, Santa is available to listen to each



Gabriella Roeder, 3, of Herndon turns to her Grandma, Cindy Roeder, Executive Director Herndon Parks & Recreation ready to ask, "Where's my marshmallow?" during the 2nd Annual Santa, Stars, & S'mores held at Runnymede Park in Herndon.

child's wishes. He provides the right amount of holiday magic."

Santa easily chatted up the children while in the background music and carols rang out through the woods, and the bonfire blazed. The smell of roasted, toasty marshmallows filled the air on a frigid night. The Collar family of Herndon, dad Patrick, mom Ann and children Adrianna, 10, Tiffany, 3, Logan, 8, and Sophia, eight months, led the line to Santa. "This is baby's first Christmas, and it's cold," said Ann who looked over at the bonfire. "It's s'mores on sticks next," she said, but not before the visit with Santa.

The Neuroth family, Maxwell, 4, and parents Trevor and Sarah, prepared to visit with Santa too, but first had to check one of the light displays. Inquiring what he'd be asking Santa to bring him, Maxwell confidently replied that he planned to ask Santa for "...a Bumblebee Transformer Rainbow Cheetah. I think he'll say yes," said Maxwell.

Over by the bonfire, Roeder watched her two grandchildren, Perry 5 1/2 and Gabriella, 3, roast marshmallows for their s'mores. "Blow," she urged Gabriella and Perry as their gooey marshmallows burst into flames. "The kids were

'Christmas at the Farm'

Santa and friends make little ones smile at Frying Pan Park in Herndon.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

Families in the community celebrated the holidays with Santa and friends at Fairfax County's 'Christmas at the Farm' held at Frying Pan Farm Park in Herndon on Sunday, Dec. 2, 2018. The little ones enjoyed a variety of Christmas-themed activities including, cookie decorating, games, a

craft, letter writing to Santa and a Santa-driven tractor wagon ride.

Jeremy and Jennifer Sontag of Oak Hill brought their two sons, Ethan 4 1/2 and Owen 1 1/2 to the park. "We did this last year, and it was fun," said dad Jeremy. It's a low-key way to get in the spirit. No crowds and easy to get tickets. Next, we're going to get our Christmas tree up the street at Gerald's trees."



The Neuroth family, Maxwell, 4, and parents Trevor and Sarah, prepare to visit with Santa, but first had to check out one of the light displays at the 2nd Annual Santa, Stars, & S'mores.

super excited for Santa to arrive," confided Roeder. "Santa, Stars and S'mores is an opportunity for families to get outside and chat with friends and neighbors in a holiday setting," said Roeder.

The next Herndon Parks and Recreation Special Event is the Father Daughter Dance on Saturday, Feb. 2, for 3-19 years olds. Register through Herndon Parks and Recreation.